

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14 are all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

The prior art rejection of claims 9, 11, 12 and 14 is respectfully traversed.

Chugo (USP 5,425,019) discloses a system wherein normal calls already in progress can be re-routed as necessary to make room for an emergency call that arises. To do this, the system identifies detour circuits to use for the normal call in case an emergency call arises. The examiner has attempted to read the language of claims 9, 11, 12 and 14 on Chugo, but overlooks certain requirements of the claims.

Claim 9 requires the step of permanently reserving a subset of circuits between two switching nodes. Chugo shows switching nodes A, B and C, but does not permanently reserve circuit segments between any of the nodes. The examiner refers to the circuits for emergent calls as the permanently reserved circuit segments, but these circuit segments are not “reserved” as that term is used and defined in the claims. In fact, the whole premise of Chugo is that some non-emergency call is already using the circuit segments needed by the emergency call, and this non-emergency call has to be rerouted. Claim 9 says that the reserved segments are only available for preferred users and not for calls not involving a preferred user. To the contrary, the “reserved” segments in Chugo are used by the normal call, just that the emergency call has a higher priority.

Claims 11 and 12 distinguish on the same basis.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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